AGENDA ITEM: Statewide Information Databases

GENERAL OVERALL PROGRAM UPDATES:

CURRENT STATUS:

Librarians' Index to the Internet (lii.org)

lii.org has provided information related to the California Reads statewide program on their "The Grapes of Web" page, http://lii.org/search/csl/TGOW . Exhibit A and B illustrate content that is part of the digital companion to the program. Special topic pages, particularly the Grapes of Web and September 11, have been very welcomed, and have consistently placed in the top 20 topic pages for lii.org.

The quarterly statistical report is included as Exhibit C. Access is up 51% from the same YTD last year; weeding is double what it was last year. The database has grown 25% in the last twelve months. For the year, over 60% more records have been added compared to the previous year. The weekly validation report has had fewer than 100 404s (broken links) for at least the last 10 months.

The lii.org Coordinator, Karen Schneider, continues to teach a number of classroom and distance education courses on indexing Internet resources using the techniques and guidelines developed for lii.org.

Library of California Periodicals/Serials Database (LoC P/SD)

A request has been sent out to the field for volunteers to participate in a serials union list working group to help review options for statewide union listing services.

Discussions continue with OCLC about their union list services and how these may provide a cost effective alternative to the union listing process now funded by the Library of California and Library Services and Technology Act funds.

The University of California, California Digital Library cost estimates for establishing a new periodicals/serials database using their new Ex Libris ALEPH system were higher than expected and could not be accommodated this year. Periodicals and serials information from the UC campuses and other contributors to the Melvyl database (California State Library, California Academy of Sciences, California Historical Society, Center for Research Libraries, and the Graduate Theological Union) will be contained in the new Melvyl database (Melvyl-T). Melvyl-T will debut later this fall and will run in parallel with the existing databases (Melvyl and the

Periodicals/Serials databases) until June 2003. Melvyl-T will be the sole database available starting July 2003.

OCLC now offers a batch load service for libraries to update records and holdings information for serials. This new service may increase the quantity and currency of holdings information from California libraries at OCLC. There is currently no charge for this service.

The serials service bureau, AT&T Corporation, is assisting in planning for a transition to a new process. AT&T will work with OCLC to explore the possibility of importing existing holdings records at AT&T into OCLC union listing records. Input of library holdings information into the AT&T database will continue only until December of 2002.

Cooperative Licensing Services

Representatives from Amigos Library Services presented an overview of services available to Library of California members at the October 4th Cascade Pacific council meeting. Amigos will be present at the California Library Association conference to alert Library of California members about their services and to answer questions about cooperative licensing activities.

Relevant Committee: Support Services
Staff Liaison: Ira Bray